



NEWS RELEASE

NEBRASKA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (NEMA) – 1300 MILITARY ROAD – LINCOLN, NE 68508-1090

Joint Information Center (JIC)

June 10, 2011, 2 p.m. CDT

CONTACT:

(402) 471-0900 nema.jic@nebraska.gov

Nebraska JIC Daily Update

All times are CDT, unless otherwise noted

** New Items and items with changes are listed in Red**

City of Plattsmouth to Begin Full Wastewater Bypass

Due to probable sewer mains broken in Missouri River flooded areas, the City of Plattsmouth waste water treatment plant began taking silt and apparent river water into the plant. City officials have deemed it prudent to begin full wastewater (sewage) bypass as soon as possible.

The Wastewater Treatment Plant will soon be taken out of service. If necessary, sewage will be pumped from sanitary sewer manholes into Missouri River flood waters.

The plant is not flooded. Precautionary levees built last week will remain in place to prevent flood waters from topping the levee and filling the plant from above.

City representatives have begun contacting property owners in low-lying areas along River Road and Castaway Pointe to take emergency measures to prevent sewage from backing into homes and other property.

The Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality has been notified that Plattsmouth is on full waste water bypass. As a reminder, for health and safety reasons, all persons should avoid contact with any flood water.

Contact: Erv Portis, City Administrator
(402) 296-2522 ext 302, eportis@plattsmouth.org

Flooding Insurance Contacts

Questions regarding insurance policies issued under the National Flood Insurance Program should be directed to the Nebraska Department of Natural Resources at (402) 471-7405 or (402) 471-3932.

Questions regarding private individual policies should be directed to your local agent or the Nebraska Department of Insurance at (402) 471-2201 or Toll Free Hotline (877) 564-7323.

Consumers interested in purchasing flood insurance now need to check with their agent to clarify whether the policy would be in effect for this incident. FEMA officials say it is too late to sign up for flooding insurance along the Missouri River for this incident since it began on June 1. Most new flooding insurance policies have a 30-day waiting period before coverage becomes effective.

Flood-related resources and links can be found on the NEMA website at www.nema.nebraska.gov

Español información –(Spanish language information):

- Para información de las inundaciones en Español, por favor usa estos recursos (For flood information in Spanish please use these resources):
- **Website Resources - En Español**
- [Regreso al hogar después de un huracán o una inundación](#)
[Cómo reparar su hogar inundado](#)
[Planificación y la Recuperación Después de un Desastre](#)
[Manual de Reclamación para Seguros Contra Inundaciones](#)
- Cruz Roja Americana <http://www.cruzrojaamericana.org/general.asp?SN=200&OP=216&SUOP=245>

State Response

Residents should stay tuned to local news and follow directions from local and state officials.

The Coast Guard restriction on recreational boats on the Missouri River along the Nebraska-Iowa border remains in effect.

Flood Hotline

A Nebraska Emergency Management Agency public information phone line, (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2454, will be staffed from **8 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily, including weekends**. The hotline is busy, please be patient.

Weather

For updated weather information weather: www.noaa.gov and www.weather.com

Railroad information toll-free telephone lines

Burlington Northern Santa Fe – 1-800-832-5452 select #3

Union Pacific Response Management Communications Center (RMCC) at 888-877-7267.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Joint Information Center – (402) 996-3877 www.nwo.usace.army.mil email: MRJIC@usace.mil

Federal Emergency Management Agency

If you are not sure if you are in flood-prone area, check out the FEMA map service center:

<http://msc.fema.gov> **Flood insurance claims** -- According to a FEMA official, existing flood insurance policy claims will be paid regardless of how the flooding was caused. For most new flood insurance policies there is a 30-day waiting period.

Local Health Departments

Every county in Nebraska is served by a local health department. A listing of health departments and the counties they serve is available at: www.dhhs.ne.gov/puh/oph/lhd.htm

Behavioral Health

Natural disasters often lead to prolonged emotional and physical stress which are common reactions when recovering from storm or flood damage. People should take care of themselves during this stressful time. Get plenty of rest. Stay connected with family and friends, and support each other. If stress is interfering with day-to-day life, it may be time to seek help. If you or someone you know is suffering from signs of stress due to flooding in your area, call the **NEMA Public Information Hotline** at **(855) 211-2453** or **(855) 211-2454**. The operators can provide you with information on mental health crisis counseling and other services.

Nebraska Department of Roads Information

- Current road information is available from the Nebraska Department of Roads at: www.511.nebraska.gov. Citizens are encouraged to find alternate routes. Do not drive over any road that is covered with flood waters. Do not remove road closure barricades. Barricades are in place for your safety.

State Road closures:

- **I-29**- The Iowa Department of Transportation closed a section of I-29 north of Council Bluff. The closure affects I-29 from 25th Street at the northern edge of Council Bluffs to the I-29/680 interchange near Loveland. It's a 16-mile stretch of interstate.
- **I-680 west of I-29** in Iowa is closed due to floodwaters. A detour is being established that will start at the I-29/680 interchange near Loveland, continue east to the I-80/680 interchange and then southwest on I-80 to Council Bluffs.
- **Highway 12** – closed from Verdel to Niobrara from mile marker 151-158 and from east edge of Niobrara to Santee spur #S54D. Has water 8" deep over the roadway for ¼ mile. Water is 2-3' over the roadway and continues to rise.
- **I-680 going into Iowa** from Nebraska at exit 13. Traffic is being detoured south on U.S. 75 through Omaha to I-480
- **Highway 30** – closed east of North Platte from mile marker 181 to 191, North River Road at North Platte, North airport road, East Long school road,
- **Highway 92** – closed from mile marker 164-203
- Intersection of Nebraska highways 12 and 14 near Niobrara
- **Highway 14** detour near Niobrara on county road 528 is soft in some areas and the speed limit has been reduced to 40 mph.

Local street closures: (Not included on State 511 information system.)

South Sioux City:

- Riverview Drive east of Scenic Park Apartments will be closed for the duration of the flooding
- East 17th Street east of Arbor Acres will be closed will be closed for the duration of the flooding
- Foundry Road east of the Sioux City Foundry will be closed for the duration of the flooding
- West Third Street, west of Eighth Avenue is closed for the duration of the flooding
- Golf Road west of Elgin Avenue will be closed temporarily over the next four days.
- Golf Road east of Elgin will have traffic restrictions due to heavy machinery entering the road way

Evacuations

Be safe and listen to public officials. Please evacuate if told to do so.

- **Dakota County:** More than 100 Businesses expect to evacuate. Two mobile homes from the Ponca area were floating down the Missouri river and have sunk. There are possibly five more that will break free and could also float down the Missouri River.
- **Burt County:** Estimates that 160 to 200 homes will be evacuated along the Missouri River.
- **Washington County:** There have been a total 150-180 people evacuated
- **Richardson County:** One family evacuated.
- **Nemaha County:** There were some voluntary evacuations from low-land areas.
- **Cass County:** There were 25 evacuations at Lake WaConDa and eight along the Platte and Missouri rivers.
- **Sarpy County:** Iske Park and Elbow Bend had some voluntarily evacuations.
- **Dixon County:** 40-50 people evacuated from cabins along the river.
- **Lincoln County:** had some voluntary evacuations.
- **Thurston County:** 12 people evacuated from Macy.
- **Boyd County:** Four people evacuated.
- **Knox County:** Approximately 200 homes between Verdel and Niobrara – all but 21 are secondary residences. One primary residence east of Niobrara.

Shelters open/ Red Cross

- **All Shelters --** Three overnight guests used shelters Thursday night
- **Fort Calhoun – Fort Calhoun High School**, 1506 Lincoln St.
- **South Sioux City Middle School –** 3625 G Street

For more information check www.redcross.org or call **1-800-RedCross** to find the chapter serving your area. Call **211** (human services helpline) to find out what resources are available; or visit the United Way of Midlands 211 website at <http://www.ne211.org> an additional number is **(402) 444-6666**.

Animal Health

Flood waters displace wild animals as well as humans. The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) warns people that wildlife may act abnormally due to the stress of displacement. As animals interact and compete for the same resources, diseases such as rabies have an increased chance of transmission. DHHS always recommends avoiding direct contact with wild animals; however, under these circumstances they may be in unexpected places and act more aggressively.

Flood waters may also displace reptiles such as snakes and turtles. Information on reptiles indigenous to Nebraska can be found at <http://snr.unl.edu/herpneb/>.

Water Testing

Well owners should take the following steps if they believe their well will be impacted:

- Before taking the well out of service, store a supply of clean water;
- Disconnect the power supply for the well. Consult a Nebraska-licensed well driller or pump installer if help is needed;
- Perform actions necessary to make the well water-tight, including removing the well vent and replacing it with a water-tight plug, and sealing any visible joint openings with water-tight caulking or equivalent material;

- Cover the top of the well with a heavy-duty plastic trash bag or equivalent protective covering and tightly secure it, making it as water-tight as possible to keep out dirt, debris and contaminants. Sealing won't eliminate the need for testing and possible disinfection, but it will provide the best chance for the well to come on-line quickly and minimize repair costs and maintenance.

Flood Clean Up Scams

Homeowners and businesses that have experienced flooding are asked to remain vigilant when it comes to hiring services or purchasing goods. For tips on avoiding home repair scams, please visit the Nebraska Better Business Bureau's website at www.bbb.org or the Attorney General's website at www.ago.ne.gov. If you feel you have been a victim of a clean-up or home improvement scam, contact the Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division at (800) 727-6432.

Insurance

Nebraska Department of Natural Resources is the state agency to contact regarding flooding insurance. (402) 471-7405 or (402) 471-3932. Flood insurance claims -- According to a FEMA official, flood insurance is available and policy claims will be covered regardless of how a flood is caused.

Fire Safety

The State Fire Marshal reminds citizens that if your power is out, and you need to use a generator, ensure your generator has been tested, approved and is in proper working order. Try not to overload circuits and continue to be cautious when there's a threat of lightning.

Phone Numbers

- Nebraska Flooding Hotline: Toll Free (855) 211-2453 or (855) 211-2452 - 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
- Nebraska Department of Insurance (877) 564-7323
- Iowa Flooding Response (515) 725-3231 or **Iowa Concern Hotline at 1-800-447-1985**
- South Dakota (605) 773-3132 or toll free at (877) 579-0015
- US Army Corps of Engineers – Information Center (402) 996-3877

Web Sites

Nebraska Emergency Management Agency website www.nema.nebraska.gov

The Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services' website has a comprehensive listing of flood resources at: www.dhhs.ne.gov/flooding/

Weather: www.weather.gov

River Levels: <http://water.weather.gov/ahps/>

NEMA on Face book: <http://www.facebook.com/nema.page>

Nebraska Department of Roads www.511.nebraska.gov

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers website - www.nwo.usace.army.mil

Red Cross: www.redcrossomaha.org

University of Nebraska-Lincoln Extension: <http://www.extension.org/category/floods>

MISSOURI RIVER FLOODING

Twitter Hashtags

[#omahaflood](#) [#2011MoRivFlood](#) [#MissouriRiver](#)

Douglas County Joint Information Center

https://twitter.com/DouglasCty_JIC

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Douglas-County-Joint-Information-Center/170924139635686>

County Updates:

Several counties have declared disasters; Knox, Dakota, Burt, Washington, Douglas, Sarpy, Cass and Lincoln.

Missouri River — County Updates

- **Boyd County:** Private wells are being contaminated in the areas that are flooding in Sunshine Bottoms which has been evacuated. There are concerns about phone service due to no cell service near the river and now numerous phone lines are under water.
- **Burt County:** A Public meeting in Tekamah drew 270 individuals.
- **Cedar County:** Received first information of river coming out of its banks near Aten.
- **Cass County:** ****CORRECTED**** The City of Plattsmouth waste water treatment plant began taking silt and apparent river water into the plant. City officials have deemed it prudent to begin full wastewater (sewage) bypass as soon as possible.
- **Dakota County:** South Sioux City: Most gas stations in South Sioux City are pumping gas out of underground tanks and filling tanks with ballast to keep them in place. Six National Guard troops will soon be monitoring levees. Water, wastewater and storm water systems have been protected from the floods to ensure continued service. These efforts include; sandbagging and/or building structures around the one drinking water lift station, four wastewater lift stations and installing pumps to pump storm water from protected parts of the city to the Missouri river.
- **Dixon County:** It is unlikely that entire towns will need to be evacuated. The emergency manager is reporting that there are 40-50 summer seasonal homes that were evacuated, but they are secondary residences and will not require sheltering needs.
- **Douglas County:** Areas affected by flooding are: NP Dodge Park, Freedom Park, Lewis and Clark landing and the waste water treatment plant.
- **Knox County:** Highway 12 is closed. Work is still being done on Highway 14. There are 180 vacation homes and 20 permanent residents between Verdel and Niobrara that have voluntarily evacuated. In addition, one home east of Niobrara has been evacuated. No shelter has been needed and no long-term shelter needs are anticipated.
- **Nemaha County:** Sandbagging operations are nearly completed.
- **Otoe County:** Sandbagging continues at the Nebraska City waste water and Omaha Public Power District plant.
- **Richardson County:** Volunteers are now working with city and county personnel to place sandbags. They are still in the process of making preparation to protect the water system. **The county emergency manager sent a disaster declaration to NEMA Monday, June 6.**
- **Thurston County:** The Macy High School shelter site to an information center that will be opened from 8am-7pm. Shelters remain on standby in: Cass, Sarpy, Dixon, Cedar, Thurston, Washington and Pottawattamie counties. All current Red Cross sheltering sites for those affected by recent flooding are below.
- **Washington:** Power was turned off to flooded areas and several roads are closed

Platte River — County Updates

- **Lincoln County:** Areas affected by flooding and road closures are Highway 30 east, North River Road at North Platte and north of Sutherland, North Airport road, East Long School Road , Highway 83 and areas east and north of North Platte.
- **Scotts Bluff County** declared a disaster because of flooding throughout the county. Areas affected by flooding include: Western Engineering Sandpit, Riverside Park, Trails West, Monument Pathways, south Mitchell, Westmoor area, Broadway businesses, south of west Overland and west of Avenue 'B', and south Morrill. Emergency managers continue to monitor the river around Terrytown.

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